

Serial No.: 09/845,898
Group Art Unit: 3751
Examiner: A. Ramana
Atty. Docket No.: 102863-2

REMARKS

The pending Office Action addresses claims 1, 3-9, 11-15, and 37-46. At the outset, Applicants note that the Office Action incorrectly lists claim 10 as pending. Claim 10 was previously cancelled.

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1, 3-9, 11, 13-15, and 37, and for indicating that claim 43 represents allowable subject matter and would be allowed if amended into independent format to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Amendments to the Claims

Applicant amend claim 38 to include the limitations of allowable claim 43, which is now cancelled.

Rejections Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

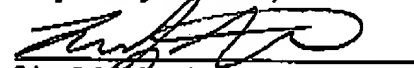
The Examiner continues to reject claims 38-42 and 44-46 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 746,455 of Campbell. While Applicants strongly disagree, Applicants amend independent claim 38 to include the limitations of claim 43, which the Examiner has indicated represents allowable subject matter. Accordingly, this amendment obviates the basis for this rejection and places claims 38-42 and 44-46 in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks above, Applicants submit that claims 1, 3-9, 11-15, and 37-46 are now in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. Applicants encourage the Examiner to telephone the undersigned in the event that such communication might expedite prosecution of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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